Selected contemporary Japanese novels translated into English are compiled in this bibliography as a guide for teachers interested in the possibilities offered by Japanese fiction. The bibliography acquaints teachers with available Japanese fiction that can be incorporated into social sciences or humanities courses to introduce Japan to students or to provide a comparative perspective. The selection, beginning with the first modern novel "Ukigumo," 1887-89, is limited to accessible full-length novels with post-1945 translations, excluding short stories and fugitive works. The entries are arranged alphabetically by author, with his literary awards given first followed by an alphabetical listing of English titles of his works. The entry information for each title includes the romanized Japanese title and original publication date, publications of the work, a short abstract, and major reviews. Included in the prefatory section are an overview of the milieu from which Japanese fiction has emerged, the scope of the contemporary period; and guides to new publications, abstracts, reviews, and criticisms and literary essays. (Author/ND)
MODERN JAPANESE NOVELS IN ENGLISH
A Selected Bibliography

By
Nancy Junko Beauchamp

May 1974

Nancy Junko Beauchamp lives in Honolulu and is the wife of Professor Edward R. Beauchamp, College of Education, University of Hawaii. In her own right, she writes: "Having taught for seven years in secondary schools, two of which were in Japan, I have long been interested in introducing Japanese literature to students. However, I have found that such curriculum enrichment is often not attempted due to individual teacher backgrounds, motivations, and especially limitations in resources. Hopefully, this bibliography will guide the way to locating materials that may be helpful to teachers."
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This is one of a series of papers of the Service Center for Teachers of Asian Studies. The Center was established by the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) in 1971 as a direct response to the growing need of the AAS to give more attention to the needs of elementary and secondary school teachers who are teaching about Asia.

The Center's primary activity is to act as a clearinghouse, to attempt to identify the existing and continually emerging print and non-print materials on Asia at the pre-collegiate level, and to give guidance to teachers as to the best available materials for the particular needs of a given teacher or a given school situation. To help fulfill this function, the Center publishes a thrice-yearly newsletter, FOCUS ON ASIAN STUDIES, and this series of "Service Center Papers on Asian Studies."

It should be stated that while the Center is making these papers available to classroom teachers and other interested persons, the contents of each paper should be attributed exclusively to its specific author.
INTRODUCTION

The world gives every sign of drawing rapidly together as a complexly interrelated and interdependent unit. The only question is whether it will be a peaceful and therefore viable "one world" when this comes about, or whether, on formation, it will explode like a nuclear pile that has reached a critical mass, destroying civilization in the process and conceivably exterminating all human life.

These words, written by former American ambassador to Japan Edwin O. Reischauer, remind us of the need to understand and communicate with peoples as diverse as the Poles, the Kenyans and the Japanese. Japan's economic miracle and the growing American interest in things Japanese—whether flower arrangement, automobiles or cameras—provide a valuable opportunity for teachers to introduce Japan to her students.

Literature is an especially fertile field for this purpose since modern Japanese fiction is widely available in translation, and can easily be incorporated into a wide variety of courses in the social sciences and the humanities, either on its own merits or to provide a comparative perspective.

This bibliography has thus been compiled as a guide for busy classroom teachers interested in the exciting possibilities offered by modern Japanese fiction. It is not definitive—new translations are constantly being published—but it can provide a basic source to acquaint teachers with some of the best Japanese fiction available.
The following bibliography is a selected listing of contemporary Japanese novels in English translation beginning with the first modern novel *Ukigumo* (The Drifting Cloud, 1887-89). This selection is generally limited to the more easily accessible full-length novels in post-1945 translations that have appeared as individual publications. Thus, short stories and fugitive works that have been published in series, in abridged versions, or as extracts in various journals and anthologies have been generally excluded.

The entries are arranged alphabetically by author. In accordance with Japanese custom, surnames are given first. The author's significant literary awards are given first followed by an alphabetical listing of the English titles of his works: For each title, the entry information includes the romanized Japanese title and its original publication date in parentheses, its various publications, and the major reviews. Underlined titles denote publication in either Japan or the United States. A list of the major literary awards in Japan is included. The abbreviation "pap." denotes a paperback edition.

**THE OVERVIEW**

In gaining an overview of the milieu from which Japanese fiction has emerged, Donald Keene, a recognized authority and a prolific translator of Japanese literature is a good starting point. His *Japanese Literature, an Introduction for Western Readers* is helpful in setting the background for the modern era while the last chapter illustrates "Japanese Literature under Western Influence" by discussing two authors, Tanizaki Junichirō and Kobayashi Takiji. The
introduction to his anthology, Modern Japanese Literature surveys the entire realm of contemporary Japanese literature and its major writers from the Meiji Restoration to 1955. His Modern Japanese Novels and the West also will prove interesting. Keene's more recent work published in 1971, Landscapes and Portraits: Appreciations of Japanese Culture gives an updated view of Tanizaki, Dazai and Mishima and discusses the effects of the second world war and the difficulties involved in translating.

Another authoritative work is Twelve Doors to Japan by John Hall and Richard Beardsley. It attempts to explain Japan through twelve "doors" - its geography, history, education, etc. Professor Yamagiwa wrote the pertinent entrance entitled "Literature and Japanese Culture" which discusses Japan's literary development up to the present - its characteristics, cultural relevance, study approaches, and the problems in translating.

This leads to Yamagiwa's own work, Japanese Literature of the Showa Period which presents an outline history of the chronological development of the numerous literary schools in Japan. Although good for in-depth study of modern Japanese literary development, this is a difficult source to use in pinpointing specific authors and their works since the writers attempted many styles in their experimental search for personal expression.

Another helpful source is Roger Bersihan's Japanese Literature half of which deals with the contemporary period since 1868. A more recent coverage and comparative in its treatment is, Armand Janeira's Japanese and Western Literature which devotes a substantial portion to contemporary Japanese fiction, and treats specific authors and
works in detail, not only descriptively, but comparatively and critically as well.  

Although this bibliography omits short stories, Ivan Morris' Modern Japanese Stories; an Anthology is an excellent survey of many of the writers included in this bibliography. His introduction and capsule biographies should give a novice reader of Japanese fiction the flavor of the Japanese literary movements and the distinctive characteristics of individual authors.

The most recent exploration of contemporary Japanese fiction dealing with a single theme is Arthur Kimball's Crisis in Identity and Contemporary Japanese Novels. Written especially "to encourage the reading, study, and appreciation of contemporary Japanese fiction," Kimball has included a syllabus "to encourage the teaching of Japanese literature in the classroom at both high school and university level, by supplying the teacher and student with study aids."

In contrast to these works written by westerners is Introducing Japan Through Books compiled by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. Its preliminary narrative comprising two-thirds of the guide describes and evaluates western-language books on Japanese subjects and translations of Japanese literature.

THE SCOPE

Japan's contemporary period began in 1868 with the Meiji Restoration and is known as Kindai or the Modern Period. The Recent Period, Gendai, began in 1945 at the end of World War II.

According to Donald Keene, Futabatei Shimei's Ukigumo (The Drifting Cloud), published in several parts from 1887 to 1889, was "the pioneer novel of the new literary movement" which "abandoned
both the traditional types of subject and the traditionally employed language. Marleigh Ryan’s translation of it substantiates this; the title reads *Ukigumo: Japan's First Modern Novel*. Consequently, this work begins the initial scope of this bibliography.

Translations of Japanese literature received its first impetus with World War II. The war with Japan and the subsequent military occupation exposed many Americans to Japan and created a group of Japanese-language specialists, many of whom retained their interests and skills when they returned to the United States. Some turned to academic fields in the universities usually complemented with translating. The vast majority, however, became a market for publications on and about Japan. Thus, based on the greater availability of translations, this bibliography begins with translations that appeared after 1950.

The translators themselves add another limitation to this scope. With the vast field of Japanese literature virtually untranslated, one may assume that they translated only those works most worthy of the effort.

GUIDES TO NEW PUBLICATIONS

To help keep abreast with the field of Japanese literature, various reference sources are available. For a listing of publications that are in print, i.e., available for purchase, but without annotations, consult the author and title listings of *Books in Print, British Books in Print, Paperbound Books in Print, Paperbacks in Print,* and *Forthcoming Books.*
Subject Guide to Books in Print will list pertinent works under subject headings such as:

- Japanese Fiction - History and criticism
- Japanese Literature (Collections)
- Japanese Literature - History and Criticism
- Japanese Literature - Translations into English

For a more current picture of new publications, consult Publishers Weekly. Its index, American Book-Publishing Record, contains listings in categories such as "Adult Fiction" and "Paperback Books." Author and title indexes appear at the end.

GUIDES TO ABSTRACTS AND REVIEWS

Serving as a guide to the best fiction in the English language, the Fiction Catalog contains an alphabetical author listing followed by a digest taken from the publisher's blurb and a quotation from a critical review. The entry also mentions awards, prizes and honors. A title and subject index appears in Part II. Pertinent subject headings are "Japan: 1867-1945," and "1945-date."

For book reviews appearing in major English and American periodicals a good place to start is the Book Review Digest appearing monthly with semiannual, annual and five-year cumulations. Entry information includes an abstract, quotations from reviews, and listings of other reviews. Each volume contains a subject and title index. However, the more recent digests will include only those works of fiction for which there had been four or more reviews. For those books receiving fewer reviews, check the more comprehensive Book Review Index. Unfortunately, this source gives no digests.
GUIDES TO CRITICISM, LITERARY ESSAYS

Helpful sources in locating current information, criticisms and literary essays are indexes such as the Essay and General Literature Index, the Social Sciences and Humanities Index, the Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature, and Contemporary Literary Criticism.
NOTES


6. Ibid., pp. 259-341.


JAPANESE LITERARY AWARDS

AKUTAGAWA PRIZE

Established in 1935 in honor of author Akutagawa Ryunosuke and awarded biennially to new writers in the literary field. Only unknown writers are considered and selected by the Bungaku Shinkokai (Society for the Promotion of Literature) of the Bunmei Shunju Publishing Company. Its reputation was tarnished in 1972 by a conspicuous instance of plagiarism perpetrated by one of its winners.

ASAHI CULTURE PRIZE

Established in 1929 by the Asahi Newspaper Publishing Company and awarded annually to persons contributing meritorious services in the cultural fields.

CHūO KORON SHINJIN PRIZE

Created in 1956 by the magazine Chūō Kōron and awarded annually to the winner in the contest held by the publisher.

JAPAN ACADEMY OF ARTS PRIZE

Created in 1947 and awarded annually to the outstanding works in the fields of art, literature and music.

KIKUCHI KAN PRIZE

Established originally by writer and publisher Kikuchi Kan in 1939, and since the war, awarded annually to the new est and most creative contribution in the cultural fields.

MAINICHI PRIZE FOR LITERATURE AND CULTURE

Instituted in 1947 by the Mainichi Newspaper Publishing Company and awarded annually to the authors and publishers of works contributing to the cultural fields.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION PRIZE FOR FOSTERING ARTS

Created in 1950 by the Ministry of Education and awarded for meritorious service in the field of juvenile literature, fiction and criticism.

NAOKI PRIZE

Established in 1935 by Kikuchi Kan in honor of popular writer Naoki Sanjō and awarded biennially by the Society for the Promotion of Literature of the Bunmei Shunju Publishing Company to new authors of light fiction.

KODANSHA LITERARY ARTS PRIZE

Begun in 1941 by the Kodansha Publishing Company in honor of its founder.
Nona Seiji, and awarded annually to the most distinguished work published the previous year.

ORDER OF CULTURAL MERIT

Founded by Imperial Order in 1939 and awarded to those who have made the most outstanding contributions to the growth of culture. Although the number of winners is unlimited, the Order is not awarded twice to the same

SHINCHÔ PRIZE

Established in 1936 by the Shinchôsha Publishing Company and awarded annually for the best work published during the year.

SHÔSETSU SHINCHÔ PRIZE

Created in 1954 by the Shôsetsu Shinchô magazine (New Fiction Trends) and awarded to new novelists.

WOMAN-WRITERS LITERARY PRIZE

Founded in 1947 by the Japan Women-Writers Association and awarded annually to the best novel written by a woman the previous year.

YOKOMITSU RIICHI PRIZE

Created in 1948 in honor of the novelist, Yokomitsu Riichi, the prize was awarded only twice because of the bankruptcy of the sponsoring publishing company. The two winners were Oska Shôshô and Nagai Tatsuo.

YÔYURI LITERARY PRIZE

Established in 1950 by the Yomiuri Newspaper Company and awarded annually for each of the six fields of fiction, poetry, drama, literary criticism, literary research, and translation.
ABE KOBÔ (1924- )

Literary awards include the 1949 Post-War Literature Prize, the 1951 Akutagawa Prize for Kabe (The Walls), the 1958 Kishida Prize for Drama, and the 1962 Yomiuri Prize for Literature for Suna no Onna (Woman in the Dunes) subsequently made into a film by Teshigahara Hiro that won the Cannes Film Festival prize.

The Face of Another (Tanin no Kao, 1964). Translated by E. Dale Saunders.


A psychological novel in monologue style dealing with the varied personalities and masks by which man lives. A scientist, disfigured in a laboratory accident, discovers that facelessness robs him of his human traits, but the mask he acquires develops a personality of its own and compounds his confusion as to his true self.

Reviews:


Inter-Ice Age 4 (Daiyon Kampyōki, 1959). Translated by E. Dale Saunders.


A futuristic fantasy involving the moral predicament of choosing between the survival of the human race and the ruthless means by which to attain this end. Dr. Katsumi's invention for foretelling human behavior forces him to cooperate with a group of scientists conspiring to mutate mammals and the human fetus to enable them to survive as the polar ice caps melt submerging land under water.

REVIEWS:

Times Literary Supplement, 3 September 1971, p. 1046.
ABE KÔBÔ. The Ruined Map (Moetsukita Chizu, 1967). Translated by E. Dale Saunders.


A novel concerned with the loss of man's individual identity in the labyrinths of a modern city. As detective Nemuro searches for a lost man, he finds his own identity and the map to his familiar world blurring.

REVIEWS:


Dwyer, D. J. Commonweal 90 (22 August 1969): 522.


WOMAN IN THE DUNES (Suna no Onna, 1962). Translated by E. Dale Saunders.


A novel with existentialist overtones concerning the trap in which man must live out his life. School teacher Jumpei, imprisoned in a pit with another woman, must keep shoveling sand or be engulfed by the shifting sand dunes.

REVIEWS:

Walsh, Chad. Book Week, 23 August 1964, p. 10.
AGAWA HIROYUKI (1920— )

Yomiuri Prize for Literature in 1953 for Haru no Shiro (Castle in Spring).

Devil's Heritage (Ma no Isan, 1953). Translated by John M. Maki.

A significant postwar novel dealing with the Hiroshima atomic destruction. The translator's introduction adds insight to the novel, the author and the period.

AKUTAGAWA RYUNOSUKE (1892-1927)

A literary prize bearing his name was created in his honor in 1935. The film Rashômon, directed by Kurosawa Akira and awarded the 1951 Venice Film Festival award, was based on elements taken from two of Akutagawa's short stories, Rashôman and Yabu no Naka (In a Grove).

Kappa; a Novel (Kappa, 1927). Translated by Shiojiri Seiichi.
Tokyo: Maruzen, 1951.

Translated by Geoffrey Bownas:

A satire of pre-war Japanese social, intellectual and political life. Mental patient No. 23 describes his previous adventures in the land of the Kappa - fabulous water creatures - and in turn, paints a caricature of human society.

REVIEWS:


DAZAI OSAMU (Real name Tsushima Shûji, 1909-1948)

1939 Kitamura Tokoku Prize for Joseito (A Girl Student).

No Longer Human (Ningen Shikkaku, 1937). Translated by Donald Keene.


The chronicle of a young man's progressive decline to self-destruction until he feels no longer human. Anti-hero Yoz plays the role of a clown in alienation to an unstable world which betrays man's trust.
REVIEWs:

Time 71 (30 June 1958): 86.

DAZAI OSAMU. The Setting Sun (Shayo, 1947). Translated by Donald Keene.


A novel describing the impact of the war on old traditions and ideals and
the decadence of the aristocracy. Kazuko and brother Naoharu whose aristocratic
family fortune came to an end with the defeat of Japan, revolt against the
feudalistic morals of old Japan.

REVIEWs:

Book Review Digest, 1956, pp. 245-6.
Booklist 53 (1 November 1956): 118.
Hughes, Riley. Catholic World 184 (November 1956): 150.

ENCHI FUMIKO (1905- )

1954 Woman-Writers Literary Prize for Himoji Tsukihi (Hungry Days), and the
Tanizaki Prize for Shu o Ubau Mono (Vermilion Pilferer).

The Waiting Years (Onnazaka, 1952-7). Translated by John Bester.

A penetrating novel probing into the psychology of the Mojii woman in an
era of transition. Rin, the wife of an important government official, ques-
tions the morality and justice of the exacting feudalistic family system, but cri-
ticates her entire life and personal happiness in catering to the domineering mal-
ENDO SHUSAKU (1923–

Literary awards include the 1955 Akutagawa Prize for Shiroi Hito (A White Man), the Tanizaki Prize and the Gru de Oficial da Ordem do Infante dom Henrique (Portugal) for Chimmoku (Silence), the Shincho Prize and the Mainichi Cultural Prize for Umi to Dokuyaku (The Sea and Poison), and the Sancti Silvestri presented by Pope Paul VI in 1970.


A novel confronting the problem of individual responsibility in wartime based on a verified case. Medical intern Suguro undergoes a moral predicament when the Japanese military and a group of his medical superiors conduct surgical experiments on American prisoners.

REVIEW:


Based on the martyrdom of the seventeenth-century Portuguese Jesuit missionaries and their Japanese converts in the Nagasaki area, this novel deals with the contradictions in the faiths of the Orient and the Occident and questions the transplanting of Christianity in incompatible cultures.

REVIEWS:

Cole, Barbara. Spectator 588 (18 July 1970); 47.
Everett, W. J. America, 6 September 1969, p. 142.

FUTABATEI SHIMEI (Real name Hasegawa Tatsunosuke, 1864–1909)

An Adopted Husband (Sono Omokage). Translated by Mitsui Buhachiro and Gregg M. Sinclair.


Japan's first novel to employ realistic characterizations and colloquial speech, this work deals with the effect of modernization and Westernization in Meiji Japan. Bunzō, a dismissed bureaucrat, finds his traditional Confucian values incompatible with the modern times and lives outside the mainstream of life unable to bend with the times.
HAYASHI FUMIKO (1904-1951)

1949 Woman-Writers Literary Prize for Bangiku (Late Chrysanthemums).

The Floating Clouds (Ukigumo, 1949). Translated by Yoshiyuki Koitabashi and Martin C. Collcutt.


A novel of a young secretary living a lonely, impoverished life in post-war Japan. All of Yukiko's lovers are as destitute as she.

IBUSE MASUJI (1898- )

Literary awards include the 1937 Naoki Prize for Jon Majirō Hyō-yūki (John Manjiro, the Castaway), the 1950 (first) Yomiuri Prize for Literature for Honjitsu Kyūshin (No Consultations Today), the 1966 Noma Prize and the Order of Cultural Merit for Kuroi Ame (Black Rain), the Japan Academy of Arts Prize for Hyōmin Usaburō (Castaway Usaburo), and was nominated for the Academy of Arts in 1959.

Black Rain (Kuroi Ame, 1965-66). Translated by John Bester.

A documentary novel written as a protest against man's inhumanity to man. Through three personal diaries and viewpoints, Uncle Shigematsu attempts to prove the marriageability of his niece Yasuko who, like himself, was caught in the black rain of the Hiroshima radioactive fallout.

REVIEWS:


A novel based on the actual life of Manjiro of Nakanohama. Manjiro, a castaway thrown up on foreign land, faces the dilemma of becoming foreign for the rest of his life or returning home to certain imprisonment and probable death, but the tottering feudal system proves his salvation.

INOUE YASUSHI (1907–

Literary awards include the 1949 Akutagawa Prize for *Tōgyū* (Bullfight), the Ministry of Education Prize for Artistic Achievement for *Tempyō no Iruka* (Tiles of Tempyō), and the Mainichi Press Prize for *Tun-huang* (Lou-Lan).


A novel of deep psychological insights exploring the multi-personalities of man. Three lovers give their view of the hunter and reconstitute his multidimensional nature.

KAWABATA YASUNARI (1899–1972)

Literary awards include the 1954 Japan Academy of Arts Prize for *Sembazuru* (Thousand Cranes), the 1954 Noma Literary Prize for *Yama no Oto* (The Sound of the Mountain), the Goethe Medal and the 1968 Nobel Prize for Literature. A literary prize bearing his name was established in his honor in 1973.

________. *The House of the Sleeping Beauties and Other Stories* (*Nemureru Bijō*). Translated by Edward Seidensticker with an introduction by Mishima Yukio.


A novel developing one of the author's favorite themes, the ugly beauty. Elderly Eguchi spends his nights with drugged young girls and ponders a world which allows the destruction of purity.

REVIEWS:


A novel dealing with contrasts of tradition and modernization, of old Japan and the new, and of life and death. A young, westernized modern go player challenges the old invincible Master of Go.

**REVIEWS:**


Book Review Digest, 68 (December 1972): 44.


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*Snow Country (Yukiguni, 1935-37)*. Translated by Edward Seidensticker.


A classic embodying the unique Japanese traditional aesthetics of contemplative serenity tinged with melancholy and the poetry of nature. Set in a hot spring in Japan's snow country, Shimamura, a wealthy Tokyoite enervated by his idle life, seeks refuge in the resort, and a triangular love relationship develops.

**REVIEWS:**


Book Review Digest, 1958, p. 482.


Springfield Republican, 17 March 1957, p. 8c.


KAWABATA YASUNARI. The Sound of the Mountain (Yama no Oto, 1949). Translated by Edward Seidensticker.


A novel focusing on post-war Japan and the complex family relationships involving multiple, hidden feelings. Shingo, an elderly businessman nearing retirement, confronts the unsuccessful marriages of his children, the deaths of close friends, and the abortion by his daughter-in-law.

REVIEWS:

Newsweek 75 (1 June 1970): 92.

Thousand Cranes (Sembazuru, 1949). Translated by Edward Seidensticker.


A novel of romantic entanglement set against the ancient art of tea. Kikuji's relationships with his dead father's mistresses and their daughter belie all that the tea ceremony represents - purity, serenity, harmony, and sensitivity.

REVIEWS:

Book Review Digest, 1959, p. 552.
Times Literary Supplement, 5 June 1959, p. 333.
KINOSHITA NAOE

*Pillar of Fire (Hi no Hashira).* Translated by Kenneth Strong.

A 'socialistically inclined novelist champions human rights.'

**REVIEWS:**

- The Listener 87 (2 March 1972): 283.

MATSUMOTO SEICŌ (1910-)


A detective mystery by a popular writer set in the whole of Japan giving a contemporary picture of the country, people, police system, and the political structure. Detective Torigai and Assistant Inspector Mihara attempt to solve the case of a double suicide.

**REVIEWS:**


MISHIMA YUKIO (Real name Hiraoka Kimitake, 1925-1970).

Literary awards include the Shinchō Prize for *Shiosai* (The Sound of Waves) awarded in 1954, the 1955 Kishida Prize for drama for *Shiroari no Su* (Termite West), the 1957 Yomiuri Literary Prize for *Kinkakuji* (The Temple of the Golden Pavilion), and the 1965 Mainichi Art Prize.

*After the Banquet (Utage no Ato, 1960).* Translated by Donald Keene.


A novel set in post-war Tokyo involving political intrigue and romance. Kazu, the proprietress of a chic restaurant, joins forces with former cabinet minister Noguchi in attempting a come-back in politics.

**REVIEWS:**


Confessions of a Mask (Kamen no Kokuhaku, 1945). Translated by Meredith Weatherby.


A psychological novel portraying an adolescent's awakening sexual instincts. Kodhan, a young Tokyo boy, struggles with his problem of abnormal sexual emotions.

REVIEWS:
Book Review Digest, 1959, p. 715.

Forbidden Colors (Kinjiki, 1952). Translated by Alfred H. Marks.


A psychological study of the homosexual life in Tokyo. Yukichi, a beautiful young homosexual, assists Hinoki Shunsuke, a famous writer, to avenge his thwarted love experiences.

REVIEWS:
Fitzsimmons, Thomas. Saturday Review 51 (1 June 1968): 35.


Times Literary Supplement, 19 September 1968, p. 1040.

This second novel in Mishima's tetralogy, *The Sea of Fertility*, depicts the clash between ancient values and modern capitalism and materialism. Isao Iunuma, the right-wing student champion of old samurai values, leads fellow conspirators in an assassination plot on Japan's foremost industrialists to reawaken the nation's traditional religious and moral codes of purity and strength.

REVIEWS:

Book Review Digest 69 (October 1973): 156.

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MISHIMA YUKIO. *The Sailor Who Fell From Grace with the Sea* (Gogo no Eikō, 1963). Translated by John Nathan.


A novel portraying the conflict between adolescent peer group values with those of their elders. Noboru and his nihilistic friends vent their violence on his mother's lover, Ruuji, a naval officer who lost their grace.

REVIEWS:

*Time* 86 (12 November 1965): 86.

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MISHIMA YUKIO. *The Sound of Waves* (Shiosai, 1954). Translated by Meredith Weatherby.


The author's early novel written in a pastoral vein concerning a modern love story set in a fishing village. Young fisherman Shinji falls in love with the daughter of the wealthiest family, Katsue, and defies tradition before they can be married.
REVIEWs:

Book Review Digest, 1956, p. 443.
Bookmark 16 (October 1956): 9.
Time 68 (20 August 1956): 92.


The first volume of the four-novel cycle, The Sea of Fertility. Set in Meiji Japan, Kiyoaki, a nouveau riche son, begins a doomed love affair with Satoko, betrothed to an imperial prince:

Duffy, Martha. Time 100 (10 July 1972): 86.
New Yorker 48 (29 July 1973): 78.


A psychological novel based on the actual arson of a famous Kyoto temple by a Zen acolyte. Mizoguchi's action in burning the temple demonstrates the power of evil underlying beauty.


An earlier work set in post-war Japan portraying a young widow's loss of moral direction. Etsuko rejoices in her husband's horrible death and goes to live in her father-in-law's household, but her obsessions bring tragedy to those around her.

REVIEWS:


Doyle, P. A. Best Sellers 29 (1 September 1969): 199.


MORI ŌGAI (1852-1922)


A novel dealing with the problems of modernization and westernization in Meiji Japan. To support her elderly father, Otama sells herself to a money lender, but falls in love with a young student who becomes her ideal love in fantasy only.

An autobiographical novel of a youth's increasing sexual awareness. Professor Kanai Shizuka writes his personal history spanning nineteen years from boyhood through young manhood to place sex in its proper perspective along with the other influences of youth.

MUSHAKÔJI, SANEATSU. (Mushanokôji, 1885- )

Literary awards include the 1940 Kikuchi Kan Prize, his nomination to the Japan Academy of Arts in 1937, and the Order of Cultural Merit in 1951.

*Love and Death (Ai to Shi, 1939).* Translated by William F. Marquardt.

Translated by Yamamura Saburo:

An "I-novel" based on the author's travel experiences in Europe. Muraoka leaves Japan and his beloved Natsuko for Europe and returns to a sad homecoming for Natsuko has passed away.

NAGAI KAFÛ (1879-1959)

1952 Order of Cultural Merit and elected to the Japan Academy of Arts in 1954.


An early work of the author set in the milieu of the Shimbashi licensed quarter of Tokyo during the early 1900's. Komayo, an aging geisha, loses her lovers, but the death of her proprietress changes her fortunes.

REVIEWS:


A novel based on Christian martyrdom in seventeenth-century Japan. Sculptor Hagiwara Yusa, commissioned to cast a statue to be used as a "treading picture" for detecting Christians, creates such a masterpiece that he turns suspicion upon himself.

**REVIEWS:**


The second of a trilogy of postwar stories, a novel of typical Japanese romanticism. Set in Peking and Tsing-tao and written in the form of letters to her mother, Yuri reveals her love for her professor.


The first of the trilogy, a novel exclusively concentrating on the sentiments of unrequited love purified by renunciation. An astro-physicist unsuccessfully pursues an elusive love.

NATSUME SÔSEKI  (1867–1916)


Based on Natsume’s own early teaching experiences, a keen psychological observation of the feebleness of justice, the hypocrisy of society, and the scorn for the ideals of honesty and justice. Told in a humorous vein, a novice teacher goes to the rural hinterland to contend with the provincial folk.

**REVIEW:**


An introspective novel describing the author's sense of loneliness, his unsuccessful marriage, and the futility of human relationships. Kenzo, a university professor, becomes a pawn for grasping relatives.

REVIEWS:


I Am a Cat (Wagahai wa Neko de Aru, 1950). Translated by Ito Aiko and Graeme Wilson.

Translained by Shibata Katsue, Kai Motonori and Harold W. Price.
Translained by Edwin McClellan.

A satire on the weaknesses of Japanese society and human nature told through the medium of a cat. The cat narrates the story of his foolish master and his household with humor and psychological insight.

REVIEWS:


A psychological novel probing a man's vile nature as he undergoes and recovers from an operation. Tsuda's operation symbolizes a much more needed operation on his soul and provides the catalyst for the analysis of five people around him.

REVIEWS:


Translated by Edwin McClellan:
A psychological analysis of an intellectual's relationship with his wife and his devoted pupil. His role in a friend's suicide colors these relationships and causes his own eventual suicide.

REVIEWS:

Booklist 54 (15 September 1957): 45.
West, Anthony. New Yorker 33 (14 December 1957): 221.

Mon (The Gate, 1910). Translated by Francis Hathy.

The Three Cornered World (Kusamakura, 1906). Translated by Alan Turney.
Translated by Sasaki Umeji. Kusamakura and Buncho.
Translated by Takashi Kazutomo. Unhuman Tour.

A lyrical prose poem combining the traditional elements of Japanese literary style with the modern elements of the nouveau roman. A painter on an excursion to a hot-spring resort in the mountains attempts to sever all ties with humanity and observe men as if they were objects in a painting.

The Wayfarer (Kōjin, 1913). Translated by Beongcheon Yu.

The second of Natsume's second trilogy, a psychological analysis of a university professor pushed to the verge of insanity by his sense of insecurity in a world of flux. Ichiro's suspicion of his wife's infidelity plunges him into a state of neurosis, and his negation of religion and spiritual guidance leaves no other alternatives but death and madness.

REVIEWS:

NIWA FUMIO (1904- )

1953 Noma Literary Arts Prize for Hebi to Hato (Snakes and Doves). The disclosure of his verified plagiarism of a medieval Japanese monk's biography for his novel led to his resignation as president of the Japanese Authors' League in 1972.


Based on the author's personal experiences as the son of a priest and a novice priest himself, a novel pointing out the weaknesses of human nature, the materialism of the contemporary Buddhist church; and the decadence of modern society. Priest Soshu's lifestyle belies his pious preaching for he is a slave to his sensual instincts.

NIWA HIROSHI (1915- )

1952 Mainichi Prize for Publication and Culture for Shinkū Chitai.


A novel dealing with the revolt of the downtrodden. Infantryman Kitani, having undergone the injustices of the Japanese military during the course of the war, rebels against his oppressor.

REVIEWS:

Book Review Digest, 1956, p. 691.
Booklist 53 (1 October 1956): 71.
New Yorker 32 (6 October 1956): 181.
NOZAKA AKIYUKI (1930– )

1967 Naoki Prize.


A novel in the picaresque vein portraying the inevitable frustrations of the small businessman, in this case a professional pornographer. Subuyan produces blue films to make the world a little happier.

REVIEWS:


OÉ KENZABURO (1935– )

Literary awards include the 1958 Akutagawa Prize for Shiiku (The Catch), the Shinchosha Literary Prize for Kojinteki no Taiken (A Personal Matter), and the 1967 Tanizaki Prize for Man'en Gannen no Footoboru (Football in the First Year of Gannen).


One of the author’s many works dealing with the problem of the contemporary void produced by the shattering of traditional values. Bird’s confrontation with the birth of an abnormal child forces him to reevaluate his own life in deciding the fate of the infant-monster.

REVIEWS:

Phillips, J. A. Best Sellers 28 (1 July 1968): 144.
ÓOKA SHÔHEI  (1909– )

Literary awards include the first Yokomitsu Prize in 1949 for Furyoki (Record of a POW), and the 1952 Yomiuri Literary Prize for Nobi.

Fires on the Plain (Nobi, 1950). Translated by Ivan Morris.


A psychological novel of the effects of war in the Japanese campaign in the Philippines. Private Tamura, a TB patient ousted from the hospital for lack of food, undergoes excruciating physical and spiritual torment when starvation forces him to become a cannibal.

REVIEWS:

Time 70 (22 July 1957): 80.
Times Literary Supplement, 12 April 1957, p. 221.

OSARAGI JIRO  (Real name Nojiri Kiyohiko, 1897– )

1952 Japan Academy of Arts Prize for Kikyō; elected to the Japan Academy of Arts in 1959.

Homecoming (Kikyō, 1948). Translated by Brewster Horwitz.


A philosophical novel questioning the debasement and abandonment of traditional values in the rush for modernization and westernization after the war. Moriya returns after many years abroad to a disillusioning homecoming for Japan has changed as much as he has; while deploring the slow death of the old Japan, he finds he is unable to harmonize his yearning for passing traditions with that of his newly acquired taste for modern living, and he leaves Japan never to return again.
REVIEWS:

Israel, R. S. San Francisco Chronicle, 23 January 1955, p. 16.
Mann, L. S. Springfield Republican, 20 March 1955, p. 10c.
Nation 181 (23 July 1955): 82.
New Statesman 40 (3 September 1955): 278.
Seuss, Dr. New Yorker 30 (29 January 1955): 88.

The Journey (Tabiji, 1951). Translated by Ivan Morris.


A novel of postwar Japan depicting the influence of westernization and materialism. Taeko must come with the attraction for easy money in reclaiming the man she loves.

REVIEWS:

Booklist 57 (1 September 1960): 23.
Hutchens, J. K. San Francisco Chronicle, 9 August 1960, p. 27.
Times Literary Supplement, 10 March 1961, p. 149.
Weigle, Edith. Chicago Sunday Tribune, 30 July 1960, p. 3.

TAKEDA TAIJUN

(1912–
)

A novel examining the inhumanity of war. A captain driven to eat his comrades faces a court trial and brings out the horrible logic of war - if he had eaten his enemy in order to survive to go on to heroic deeds to save his country, he could be 'exonerated, if not commended, for patriotic deeds.


Set in Shanghai in the aftermath of the war, a novel illustrating the base animal instincts of man surfacing in time of crisis and chaos.

REVIEWS:

*Booklist* 64 (1 February 1968): 627.


TAKUYAMA MICHIKO (1906- )

First Ministry of Education Prize for Fostering Arts awarded in 1950 for *Biruma no Tategoto*, and the Mainichi Press Prize for the same work.

*The Harp of Burma* (*Biruma no Tategoto*, 1949). Translated by Howard Hibbett.


A novel of personal sacrifice and dedication toward serving others. Mizushima decides to remain in Burma when the other soldiers return to their homeland after the war; the abandoned corpses move him to dedicate his life toward giving them a burial and final rights and praying for their salvation.

TANIZAKI JUNICHRÖ (1886-1965)

Literary awards include the 1949 Asahi Culture Prize and the 1947 Mainichi Prize for Publication and Culture for *Saseleyuki* (*The Makioka Sisters*) and the Order of Cultural Merit in 1949. He was elected in 1923 to the Japan Academy of Arts and was the first Japanese elected an Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1964. After his death in 1965, a literary award bearing his name was established in his honor.

*The Diary of a Mad Old Man* (*Füten Rōjin Nikki*, 1962). Translated by Howard Hibbett.


The diary...of an elderly invalid's dilemma of possessing undiminished sexual urges despite a deteriorating body. Seventy-seven-year-old Utsugi's attraction for his daughter-in-law Satsuko provides him his chief pleasure in life but proves too great a strain for his delicate condition.
REVIEWS:

Time 86 (20 August 1965): 79.

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The Key (Kagi, 1958). Translated by Howard Hibbett.


Told in the form of the parallel diaries of a husband and wife, this portrays a man's perverted attempts to rekindle his sexual passion for his wife.

REVIEWS:

McLaughlin, Richard. Springfield Republican, 12 March 1961, p. 5D.
Time 77 (17 February 1961): 94.
Times Literary Supplement, 18 September 1961, p. 593.

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The Makioka Sisters (Sasameyuki, 1934-38). Translated by Edward Seidensticker.


A novel depicting the fading traditions and grandeur of an Osaka upper-middle class merchant family. The war and the encroachments of modernization influence the four Makioka sisters' lives.

REVIEWS:

Booklist 54 (15 November 1957): 170.
Keene, Donald. Saturday Review 60 (9 November 1957): 16.
Kirkus Service Bulletin 25 (1 August 1957): 551.

_Some Prefer Nettles* (*Tade Kuu Mushii*, 1928-9). Translated by Edward Seidensticker.


A novel depicting the conflict between the modern and the traditional, and the Western and the Japanese values. Misako and Kaname’s marital conflict reflects their cultural conflict; they find pleasure in contrasting cultural elements.

REVIEWs:

Smith, T. F. *Library Journal* 80 (1 April 1955): 792.


Translated by Howard Hibbett:

A novel of total submission in love contrasted to cruel, egotistical impassiveness. Shunkin’s devotion to his beautiful mistress leads him to emulate her musical attainments and to follow her in blindness.
TOKUTOMI KENJIRÔ (Roka, 1868-1927).

Footprints in the Snow; a Novel of Meiji Japan (Omoide no Ki, 1901).
Translated by Kenneth Strong.


Based on the author's personal life, a novel of an impoverished boy attracted to western technology and culture during the Meiji era. Ōkuchi Shintaro struggles to attain education in the hopes of rebuilding the honor and family fortune of his bankrupt home.
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Book Review Digest 1905-. New York: H. W. Wilson Company, 1905-

Book Review Index, 1965-. Detroit: Gale Research, 1965-


Contemporary Literary Criticism. Edited by Carolyn Kiley. v. 1-. Detroit: Gale Research Co., 1973-


Essay and General Literature Index, 1934-. New York: H. W. Wilson Company, 1934-


Japan Bibliographic Index 1957, a Classified List of Old and New Books and Postwar Articles on Japan in English with the Index including All the Titles from the Japan Bibliographic Annual 1956. Tokyo: Hokuseido Press for the Japan Writers Society, 1957.